



Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America

2009 Vivekananda Family Camp

Tolland MA: August 16-22, 2009 (Sun to Sat)

<http://camps.vhp-america.org>



INFORMATION FOR CAMPER'S AND VOLUNTEER'S APPLICATION FORMS

Deadline for Application: Register early by **June 22, 2009** and save. Regular registration by **July 13, 2009**. Either one or both parents should attend the camp as volunteer(s).

Limited seats are available for campers who apply to come (without a parent and) with a guardian and pay higher fees.

Objective: It is a one week long residential camp where youth can learn about and practice Hindu values while participating in a variety of fun activities with *their peers* in a disciplined and congenial atmosphere.

Age Limits: Boys and girls born after **August 1, 1991** and before **August 1, 2001** (ages 8-18) can be admitted as **campers**. Among them a select few from the 16-18 age groups will be enrolled in the DLP (see below). Those under age 8 come as **accompanying children**. Above 18 attend as **volunteers** (as parents, guardians or invited teachers/counselors).

A select few campers from the 16-18 age groups will be invited to partake in the DLP, a skills-based program designed to enhance qualities and skills necessary to realize one's full potential and capabilities, in the professional as well as personal realms. Through hands on activities varying in degrees of rigor and demand, participants will learn valuable skills ranging from project implementation to public speaking to resourceful thinking.

Interested parties should send a brief note of interest to vfc.dlp@gmail.com for information and application materials.

Parents, Guardians: Parents or guardians appointed by campers' parents serve as volunteers/counselors under the guidance of the camp organizers. All adults coming to the camp must be in good health, be able to carry out indoor and outdoor activities on their own and typically should have a US driver's license. A camper's sibling (with camp experience and subject to registration committee approval) over 18 can serve as a guardian for him/her. All other guardians must be over 25. An adult can serve as a guardian for no more than one camper in addition to his/her own children.

Invited Teachers / Counselors: Those over 18 who are not coming as parent volunteers or guardians may come only as invited teacher/counselor. Please submit a letter of recommendation from a Vishwa Hindu Parishad Governing Council Member along with your application unless you have received a specific invitation from the camp registrar. You will be notified of acceptance. Youth who have attended three camps in the past are especially encouraged to apply.

Separate Application Forms: A separate application form and a "Health History and Medical Form" should be filled out for *every* individual. Volunteer's (age over 18) application form is different from camper forms. Forms may be **freely copied** or can be downloaded from <http://camps.vhp-america.org>

Admission: You will be notified of acceptance/rejection/status within six weeks after receipt of your application (with proper fees and medical information). There is **no** walk-in registration. No substitution is allowed for campers or adults. Limited seats are available for campers coming without a parent.

Discipline: Adults and children should read the discipline guidelines given below and both should sign the application form. Regulations require reference checks, criminal offence registry information (CORI) and Sex Offenders Registry Information (SORI) checks of *all* volunteers.

Duration of Camp: For campers and volunteers, each camp runs from Sun. 1pm to Sat. 1pm. Provision for part-time attendance by parents or a guardian is no longer available.

Refund Policy: Cancellations must be received in writing by **July 20, 2009** to receive a refund (less a non-refundable processing fee of \$50.00 per family). No refund can be made after that date.

Activities: Typical activities include exercises, yoga, classes on Hindu philosophy and practices, crafts and skills (ranging from *mehendi* to woodworking depending on the age group), science experiments, swimming/canoeing, Indian games (e.g. Kho, Kabbadi), cultural programs put up by campers (dance, drama, music etc.) campfire, discussions with eminent people in the community. Check out <http://camps.vhp-america.org> for photographs from past camps. **Typical Daily Schedule:**

6:30 am	Wake-up	1:00 pm	Library & Free Time	7:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 am	Meditation/Exercise/ Yogasana	1:30 pm	Discussion/Waterfront	8:00 pm	Cleanup/Setup
8:30 am	Breakfast & Free Time	2:45 pm	Waterfront Activities	8:30 pm	Cultural Program
9:30 am	Education 1	4:00 pm	Snacks & Tea etc.	9:45 pm	Milk & Cookies
10:45 am	Education/Projects	4:30 pm	Outdoor Games	10:00 pm	Bed Time
12:00 pm	Lunch	5:45 pm	Shower & Free Time	10:30 pm	Safety Check
		6:30 pm	Prayer & Aarti		

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Mail completed application form to: **Mr. Nikhil Buch, 42 Lancaster Rd, Glastonbury, CT 06033 Tel: 860-633-3029**
Fax # 860-394-4899 email: nikhilbuch@yahoo.com for the camp in Tolland, MA, Aug.16-22, 2009.

Fee Schedule for each camp location (Register early and save) Scholarships/Discounts are available in hardship cases.
 Please contact area coordinator below or the registrar.

	Early Registration postmarked by June 22, 2009	Regular Registration postmarked by July 13, 2009	Late Registration postmarked after July 13, 2009
	Camper with parent*	Camper with parent*	Camper with parent*
Each Camper	\$225	\$275	\$300
Accompanying Child under 8**	\$125	\$175	\$200
Each Parent/Guardian/Counselor	\$125	\$125	\$125

* Camper who applies to come without parent(s) must pay an **additional \$50 fee per camper and find a guardian** (who may be a family member or another camper's parent). As an example, such a camper would send \$275 for early registration, \$325 for regular registration and 375 for late registration.

** Children under 8 must come with a parent and not with a guardian.

CPR/First Aid Certificate Holders: A camper can bring his/her currently valid certificate to the camp for a \$10 refund.

Referral Discount: On camper's application form, please indicate the name of the family who referred you to the camp for a \$25 per family discount for the referring family.

Attendance at the camp provides one year membership in Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America. If you are already a member, your family's membership will be extended by one year.

Area Coordinators

(Applications must be mailed only to the camp registrar whose address is given at the top of this page. Contact the following for additional forms, information, local coordination, car-pooling etc.)

CT: Hasit Parikh 860-628-8978, Ajit Desai 860-529-6272; **DE:** Bharat Gajjar 302-234-8553
MA: Jaya Asthana 508-875-0432, Kaushik Patel 508-977-9347; **MD:** Shivaram Sitaram 301-515-8504;
NH: Rita Patel 603-334-6551; **NJ:** Praveen Garg 609-923-3351, Dahyabhai Patel 856-772-0632
NY: Dinesh Modh 516-935-0002, Devendra Patel 718-983-5591 **PA:** Surendra Dayal 610-706-4584;

Discipline Guidelines for Campers

1. Except for medical reasons, decided by the Camp Doctor, no camper will be allowed to leave the camp site until the camp is officially concluded.
2. Campers are not permitted to bring food, soft drinks, expensive jewelry, iPods, radio, TV, walkman, Discman, electronic games, cell phones, blackberry etc. to the campsite. Any cassette recorders, cameras, music etc. that are brought for the cultural program or talent show must be deposited with the camp authorities upon arrival. Phones are available at camp for emergency communication.
3. Possession or use of alcoholic beverages or drugs on the campsite will constitute immediate grounds for dismissal.
4. Gambling, fighting, harassment of other campers, use of indecent or threatening language shall not be permitted.
5. Campers are expected to be in bed by 10.30 pm., and absolute silence should be maintained after that time.
6. Campers will stay in their allotted tents/cabins. Boys and girls are not allowed in each other's tents/cabins at any time.
7. Campers are expected to keep the campsite clean at all times. This includes the tents/cabins, kitchen area, dining area, activity areas and the playgrounds.
8. Participation in all planned activities is required unless excused by the camp doctor/nurse or camp director.
9. Campers shall adhere to all the safety rules which will be explained and discussed at the camp site.
10. Campers with any medical problems requiring special medical attention / medication must inform the camp doctor immediately upon arrival.
11. Everyone participating in canoeing/boating is required to pass a water wading test.
12. Conservative attire must be worn, e.g. no belly shirts or halter-tops.
13. Camp authorities reserve the right to ask a volunteer or camper to leave the program for medical, disciplinary or other reasons. If asked to leave due to disciplinary reasons, the fee will not be refunded.